

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

a management computer storing a first program;
one or more devices coupled to said management computer via a network
and storing a second program; and
a first computer coupled to said management computer via the network,
wherein said one or more devices and said second program are not disclosed
to said first computer,
wherein said management computer:
stores association information related to an association between said first
program and said second program,
receives, from said first computer, a first request for executing said first
program,
determines whether or not said first program corresponds to said second
program on the basis of said association,

executes said first program and sends a second request to said one or more devices when said first program corresponds to said second program, said second request including instructions to execute said second program,

receives execution results produced by the execution of said second program from one or more of said devices,

uses the execution results of the second program to generate a response from execution of said first program, and

sends to said first computer the response generated from execution of said first program incorporating the execution results of the second program in reply to said first request,

wherein said one or more devices receive said second request, execute said second program and send the execution results to said management computer without disclosure to the first computer of said one or more devices or said second program.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 26, further comprising:

a second computer coupled to said management computer, said one or more devices, and said first computer via the network, wherein:

said second computer collects a plurality of location information related to locations where said first program or said second program are stored, stores said

plurality of location information with both said first program and said second program, and generates said association information.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 27, wherein
said association information is a hierarchy information indicating whether said first program is of a higher level than said second program associated with said first program.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 28, wherein
said second computer determines which program of said first or second programs is of a higher level than its associated program on the basis of said hierarchy information, and sends, to said first computer, a location of the program which is a higher level than its associated program.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A management computer comprising:
a network interface to be coupled to one or more devices and a first computer via a network, said one or more devices not being disclosed to said first computer;
a processor coupled to said network interface;
a memory coupled to said processor;

wherein said memory stores a first program which is a target of a request from the first computer and said memory further stores association information regarding said first program and a second program which is stored in said one or more devices,

wherein said processor receives, via said network interface, a request from said first computer for executing said first program, refers to said association information to determine whether said first program as a target to be executed is associated with said second program,

wherein, when said first program as a target to be executed is associated with said second program, said processor executes said first program and sends to said one or more devices via said network interface, an instruction for executing said second program in said one or more devices, receives execution results produced by the executed second program via said network interface via the network, uses the execution results to generate a response, and sends, to said first computer, the response as a reply of said request, said one or more devices and said second program remaining undisclosed to said first computer, and

wherein the second program executed manages hardware and software resources of the plurality of devices, and the first program executed provides information about the resources of the plurality of devices to the first computer.

32. (Previously Presented) A management computer according to claim 31,
wherein

said association information includes a hierarchy information indicating
whether said first program is of a higher level than said associated second program.

33. - 37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

a management computer storing a first program;
one or more devices coupled to said management computer via a network
and storing a second program;
a first computer coupled to said management computer via the network; and
a second computer coupled to said management computer, said one or more
devices, and said first computer via the network,
wherein said one or more devices and said second program are not disclosed
to said first computer,

wherein said second computer collects location information related to
locations where said first program and said second program are stored, stores said
plurality of location information with both said first program and said second
program, and generates association information related to a dependency association
between said first program and said second program,

wherein said management computer:

receives, from said first computer, a first request for executing said first program,

determines whether or not said first program corresponds to said second program on the basis of said association information,

executes said first program and sends a second request to said one or more devices when said first program corresponds to said second program, said second request including instructions to execute said second program,

receives execution results produced by the execution of said second program from one or more of said devices,

uses the execution results of the second program to generate a response from execution of said first program, and

sends the response generated by said first program to said first computer in reply to said first request,

wherein said one or more devices receive said second request, execute said second program and send the execution results to said management computer without disclosure to the first computer of said one or more devices or said second program.

39. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 38, wherein
said association information is a hierarchy information indicating whether said
first program is of a higher level than said second program associated with said first
program.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 39, wherein
said second computer determines which program of said first or second
programs is of a higher level than its associated program on the basis of said
hierarchy information, and sends, to said first computer, a location of the program
which is a higher level than its associated program.

41. (New) A computer system comprising:

- a first service-providing computer storing a first program;
- a second service-providing computer coupled to said first service-providing
computer via a network and storing one or more second programs; and
- a service-utilizing computer coupled to said first service-providing computer
via the network,
- a service-disclosing device coupled to said first service-providing computer,
said second service-providing computer, and said service-utilizing computer via said
network, said service-disclosing device collecting relationship information regarding
whether a dependent relationship hierarchy exists between said first program on

said first service-providing computer and said one or more second programs on said second service-providing computer;

wherein, when said dependent relationship exists, said service-disclosing device discloses said first program to said service-utilizing computer and does not disclose said second service-providing computer and said one or more second programs upon which the first program depends to said service-utilizing computer,

wherein said first service-providing computer:

stores association information related to the dependent relationship between said first program and said one or more second programs,

receives, from said service-utilizing computer, a first request for executing said first program,

determines whether or not said first program depends on one or more of said second programs on the basis of said association information,

executes said first program and sends a second request to said second service-providing computer when said first program depends on one or more of said second programs, said second request including instructions to execute said one or more second programs,

receives execution results produced by the execution of said one or more second programs from said second service-providing computer,

uses the execution results of the one or more second programs to generate a response from execution of said first program, and

sends to said service-utilizing computer the response generated from execution of said first program incorporating the execution results of the one or more second programs in reply to said first request,

wherein said second service-providing computer receives said second request, executes said one or more second programs upon which said first program depends, and sends the execution results to said first service-providing computer without disclosure to the service-utilizing computer of said second service-providing computer or said one or more second programs.

42. (New) A computer system according to claim 41,

wherein said service-disclosing device collects location information related to locations where said first program or said one or more second programs are stored, and provides said association information to said first service-providing computer, whereby said first service-providing computer determines whether the dependent relationship exists between said first program and the one or more second programs.

43. (New) A computer system according to claim 41,

wherein said association information is a hierarchy information indicating whether said first program is of a higher level so as to be dependent on results produced by said one or more second programs associated with said first program.

44. (New) A computer system according to claim 43,

wherein said second service-providing computer makes a request for service registration to said service-disclosing device for each of said one or more second programs on said second service-providing computer, said request for service registration including the hierarchy information,

wherein said first service-providing computer makes a request for service registration to said service-disclosing device for said first program on said first service-providing computer, said request for service registration including the hierarchy information, and

wherein said service-disclosing device provides the association information regarding which program of said first program or said one or more second programs is of a higher level than its associated program on the basis of said hierarchy information.

45. (New) A computer system according to claim 41,

wherein said execution results are respective pieces of data that a plurality of said second programs send back to said first service-providing computer, and

wherein said first service-providing computer aggregates the respective pieces of data that said second programs send back into said response, and responds to said service utilizing computer.

46. (New) A computer system according to claim 41,
wherein said first request is a request for acquisition of status information
about a device, and the response to the first request is the status information about
said device.